

## The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1907.

### A Hopeless Effort.

There is just about as much boot in an effort at this time to arouse Democratic opposition to Mr. Bryan's nomination as there would be in an effort to prevent Mr. Roosevelt's nomination by the Republicans if he were now serving his first term.

Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan ought to be mighty friendly, for their situations are mightily alike; maybe too much alike for them to get on well together. Each is the unquestionable head of his party, and each is cordially disliked by the politicians of the party. Each is the living proof that the politicians are subordinate to the people.

The Democratic politicians are reported at work organizing to get conservatism into the saddle. It is utterly useless. If the Republican party goes ahead with Rooseveltism, Democracy doesn't dare be more conservative than Republicanism; and if the Republicans should be organized and financed into "safety and sanity" then Democracy would have its real chance, by sticking to the ideas that represent Rooseveltism.

Either way, the Democracy can't get away from Mr. Bryan.

### Where We Ourselves Come In.

While we consider "What's the matter with Washington?" we can read this, from the Kansas City Journal to its readers, with particular attention:

The very rich and the great corporations probably stand in no greater need of reform than you and your next-door neighbor. How lawless are you? In a republic every individual holds one of the offices of the office of the office. If you neglect the duty of that office in order to make money how much better are you than a thiefing public treasurer? Don't forget yourself. Your information about your own crimes is much more accurate than your information about the crimes of Rockefeller. And you can get at yourself better and quicker. Don't forget yourself. How mendacious, lawless, and dishonest are you?

More of that is pertinent to us than we may think. We do not hold office as electors. We cannot indict ourselves for neglecting our franchise. But is our own citizenship impeccable? Do we all fulfill our obligations to the city which we have made our home? Do we attend its business men's meetings, ourselves help to avoid the mistakes of the citizens' associations we are so quick to discuss, attend the hearings at the District Building where "the only point material to the issue was not even mentioned?"

Do we do all this? If we do not, are we not guilty as the man who fails to vote? Let us stop thinking of the Amalgamated awhile and think of ourselves. The District will profit by it—and so will we.

### Sensible Grover Cleveland.

Whether or not increasing wisdom has come to Grover Cleveland, the sage of Princeton, at the attainment of his seventy years, it is certain he is a very great man in many ways and that, as a teacher of other men and a director of human aspirations, he has won for himself a definite and unique place in our American life.

Especially attractive for ever-increasing numbers is this rugged gentleman's love for nature and the things of the out of doors. He has won almost as much renown for his writings on hunting and fishing, filled with keen philosophy and kindly humor, as he has for his political career. And now that he has reached his three score and ten, hearty and vigorous, he is more likable than ever.

In a New York paper the other day Mr. Cleveland thus spoke of the value of the quiet life, the life apart from the hideous uproar and mad chasings of the city:

I believe that we must seek ourselves against the fullest life life is the easier and the most productive of happiness.

We are proud of our cities, of course. But we must not allow them wholly to shape our ideals and our ambitions. Nothing that the wealth of a city can give will atone for the loss of that American sturdiness and independence which the farm and the small town have so frequently produced.

It is unquestionable that nature has an elevating influence upon heart and character. Nature is a school of all the hardest virtues. We, for instance, can impart a more effective lesson in patience than a day's fishing for the whimsical black bass.

The history of our country shows that the citizen who lives close to the soil and to the influences of nature is far more apt to shape his own political convictions, instead of being a mere obedient fraction of a political machine. He is certain to be more self-reliant and more stubborn in holding fast to his own idea of what is right.

Grover Cleveland is not alone in that thought. More and more are men trying to "get back to the soil" for a part of the year, at least, and

those who can afford it are conducting their business or their profession in the city and are living in the country, an ideal way of existence. Whether they think deeply about it or not, they feel the instinctive call and they know that life is kinder among the hills than among the brick walls.

### President Finley's Idea.

The widespread concern about the development of relations between the transportation concerns and the government—State and Federal—may be pleaded as excuse for a brief animadversion to the address which President Finley of the Southern Railway made at the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce dinner a few evenings ago. President Finley has been explaining to the employees of his system, and to the people along its lines, the policy he designs to enforce.

The addresses he has made, some to officials of his road, some to commercial organizations, deserve commendation because they recommend to the public and demand of employees a policy of co-operation and mutual understanding between people and railroads. He has told his traffic and operating people that they must make friends of their patrons; that the good will of a community is to be regarded as only less desirable than its tonnage. When the railroad is unable to meet the demands of the people, it must let them know the reason, fairly and frankly.

President Finley called attention in his Atlanta address to the work the Southern has done for the industrial development of the South. He assures that this work is to be continued and broadened. The promise means much to the South, for the Southern and the Illinois Central have been pioneers in this kind of enterprise in the South, and their efforts have been beneficial to a degree not yet fully appreciated.

The people have no disposition to inflict injustice on the railroads or on holders of railroad securities. The necessity that railroads shall be able to get more money to invest in betterments and expansion of facilities is quite appreciated. President Finley is taking hold of his task in the right way to strengthen popular confidence and good will. It is necessary that financiers as well as operators of railroads assume this attitude. The public is entitled to the assurance that when a railroad sells securities, it is selling something with real value. When that assurance is firmly planted in the minds of investors, there will be less concern about raising money.

President Finley represents the men who operate railroads. He is not a railroad financier. The problem is to get the financial head, who is generally the chairman of the board, and the operating head, who is usually the president of the company, to work together. Too often they fail to do this. Such men as Stuyvesant Fish, A. J. Cassatt, and a few more of the old school of railroad presidents who were both operating men and financial directors, owed their success largely to their capacity to perform both these tasks. They were too busy to do much stock jobbing, and that was a good thing.

### A Frenchman "In Our Midst."

Le Figaro has published, and the Boston Transcript has translated, the views of Camille Saint-Saens—the impressions caught by the distinguished French composer—on his recent tour of America. Interest of a dozen sorts is bound up in the interview. Old man that he is, artist and lover of peace that he is, he was not tortured by the nerve and noise of the New World. On the contrary, as he "didn't go to America on a hunt for relics of the past" he was not disappointed. For him, "the great charm of a country is in nature and the natives," and both gave him genuine pleasure over here.

Again, though he played in Boston with the unparalleled Boston Symphony, he seems to have left the experience altogether out of his recollections. New York's Philharmonic is mentioned and particular attention is given his performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra; but there is not even a mention of his visit to the Hub or the unapproachable excellence of its band. Strange people, these foreigners. At any rate, that's what they are saying up in Boston.

But Washington will read most closely the observations on the American Capital. Tucked in between regret at being made to play his own Concerto in G minor and some wonderment over the tall buildings, it begins with personal compliments to the President and M. Jusserand. There is a certain reference to the two which ought to be noted in passing. The ambassador, he says, "is a great friend of the President, who takes him with him on those excursions, whose stories when he tells them, become almost incredible epics." Either the translator has got his wires crossed in that sentence or somebody is convicted of drawing the long bow.

After that comes:

But need I describe my pleasure at seeing in Washington the statue of I.

Lafayette and that of Rochambeau? The Americans have a quality that touched me much. No ingrates are they; they have the right to be taken by France in their independence. Everywhere you find statues, busts, portraits, souvenirs and relics of Lafayette. And while we're in Washington let us hasten to say, before quitting that city, how charming it is. While its Capitol, its Library (admirably equipped, though) and its Obelisk didn't fill me with extravagant enthusiasm, I was delighted with the city itself, an oasis of verdure where broad avenues are bordered with pretty houses, where there's neither noise nor smoke, few tramways and few twenty-story skyscrapers.

With the Arch of Triumph, Notre Dame and the Madeleine in his mind, the Frenchman was not much impressed by our Capitol, Library and "Obelisk." But he did note the monuments to Lafayette and Rochambeau and he finds occasion to contribute a little ammunition to the fight against trade for Washington. Next time, maybe, some of the younger members of our local business bodies will constitute themselves a reception committee and escort visiting composers about town.

There is one paragraph more which must be quoted. It would be better not to comment at all on these naive ingenious and charming observations than to leave out this: And then, how could one fail to be pleased in a country where all women are charming? And what a lovely sight! Those who, by ill chance, lack beauty, make up for the lack by making you think them beautiful. I had selected my sensibilities against encountering manish women, with short hair and stony eyes. What a delightful disappointment! Woman rules in America—a little too much indeed, by what I hear, but she remains essentially feminine, she rules with a right hand, with grace and grace and irresistible attractiveness.

Saint-Saens proves himself a true Frenchman.

"Beautiful, brainless dolls" is the characterization a German investigator gives to English women. Now will the English navy fall longer to justify the policy that has developed it into the greatest armament on earth?

Mr. Bryan announces that he will remain in politics twenty-two years longer. Is this to be construed as a threat that he will remain in politics that long unless he is given a spell in office?

A bunch of Chicago poker fiends have been in continuous session for seventy-two hours, and Chicago claims that more real money has changed hands than in the whole New York stock panic.

President Zelaya, in seeking the cities of Honduras and San Salvador, is living up to the David Harum motto of "doing it fast."

Only two more days of jumping over these big words that the alienists use—maybe.

Mrs. Fish has cheered a waiting world with the announcement that Newport will be right there at the old stand, Wall Street or no Wall Street. The country is going to have something to laugh at, even if it doesn't feel so much like laughing.

Having been touched before, people naturally regard with some little misgiving this new announcement of the policy of the Wall Street folks to get into touch with the public.

The Rhode Island Senatorial fight is getting so big that it will begin to slop over into adjoining States before long.

When Mr. Mellen left the White House there was everything in his manner to indicate that he had been plugged.

### Finds Pocketbook

Dropped on Street  
By Foraker's Son

Because Arthur Foraker, the fifteen-year-old son of Senator Foraker, has a bad cold, Robert Thomas, a colored street sweeper, fifty years of age, living at 218 Newport place northwest, is a prisoner at the Third precinct police station on a charge of petit larceny. The Senator's son is a student at the Friends' Select School, I street between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets. When Arthur reached the corner of Eighteenth and I streets shortly before 5 o'clock this morning, he reached his pocket for a handkerchief. As he drew it out a pocketbook containing a \$1 bill fell to the pavement.

He did not discover his loss until he got inside the school. Then some of the students told the principal they had seen the street sweeper pick it up. The boy was reported to the police, and Thomas was placed under arrest by Policeman Cox.

Thomas denied having picked up the purse, but when the bag in which he had dumped the rubbish from the streets was searched it was found under some newspapers.

### MASONIC TEMPLE BIDS DISCUSSED TONIGHT

Discussion on the letting of the contract for the erection of the new Masonic Temple will be heard at the meeting of the building committee at 145 New York avenue northwest this evening at 8 o'clock. President Small gave the executive committee has made certain recommendations which will not be made public until the meeting is ended this evening.

### NURSES' BOARD MEETS; ORGANIZES UNDER LAW

The Nurses' Examining Board, just appointed by the Commissioners under the new law for the registration and examination of nurses, consisting of Miss Kaneley, Miss Hewitt, Miss Douglas, Miss Drake, and Mrs. Fleetwood, called upon Commissioner Macfarland yesterday afternoon and organized, as required by the Act of Congress, the board of officers. They organized by electing Miss Hewitt, president, and Miss Douglas, secretary. The latter is also treasurer.

### SURGEON KERR DEAD.

Surgeon B. B. Kerr, U. S. N., died yesterday morning at Chicago. Dr. Kerr was appointed to the service from Virginia and was on duty at the military station at Chicago at the time of his death.

## BURTON'S JAIL DOORS TO OPEN IN TWO DAYS

Will Attack Enemies In Speech At Abilene Saturday Night.

ST. LOUIS, March 20.—Joseph R. Burton, former United States Senator from Kansas, who has been in jail at Ironton, Mo., since October 22, will walk out, a free man, Friday.

He will go out to the air of freedom with the express determination to expose, in the press and by word of mouth, alleged abuses in Washington. He will go out with optimism in his heart and a smile on his lips, contending that he is innocent. He will go to his home town of Abilene to speak there Saturday night to the biggest crowd he can assemble.

He claims that he will tell "amazing things." He promises to reveal the real reason why he was sent to prison and fined \$2,500 on the charge of accepting money for practicing before the executive departments of the Government for an alleged get-rich-quick scheme. He declares he will give the President trouble.

Also, he looks forward to starting a weekly paper in Abilene, to be called "The Home Rule," and for this he says he has ample financial backing.

### Fine Held as Civil Judgment.

The former Senator will not be required to serve out the time necessary to discharge his \$2,500 fine, but it will be held over his head as a civil judgment. He is thankful for this because, he says, he has no money to pay the debt at present. When he was asked today what he intended to do upon being liberated, Mr. Burton said: "I feel that I owe it to myself, to my wife, and to my friends to show to the people of Kansas and of the United States that Joe Burton is not a 'dead end' man. I intend to show them that a lot of the fellows who have fought me will find that I am pretty much of a live one."

### Will Issue Long Statement.

Burton then admitted that he would make a long statement as soon as he reaches Abilene. "I'll say whatever I've got to say in a large hall," he declared, "where just as many people as can crowd in can hear me. And in that little city where I have lived for twenty-eight years, where I made a fortune of \$150,000 and lost it when hard times came—that little city, where, if there is a place on this earth that people know and understand me it is there, I shall talk to the people from my heart and tell them just how I have suffered. And it is true that I expect to make some amazing statements."

### Many Friends in Kansas.

"I have lots of friends in Abilene and all over Kansas. When I lost my fortune, through a depression of the general business affairs of the country, I paid up every dollar that I owed. "And it is those creditors to whom I paid all of my obligations that are now standing by me in many instances. I have not whimpered to them or to any man why I was put into the Ironton jail. Just why I was put there shall be known after I get home. But there have come letters to me from all over the country since I have been here in this jail. And the most of them, if they didn't contain any other kind word, have been offers to do anything in a personal way for me that could be done."

"They have been beacons of hope to me as I lay down at night in my narrow little prison cell and listened to the howling of the winds outside or the driving of rain or sleet against the windows of the corridor. "That night, last October, when there was a strange click of the door behind me and I found myself in a large hall, I was steadfast in the faith that I am and have always been innocent of any wrongdoing."

## PROTECTION OF BIRDS DIFFICULT IN SOUTH

T. G. Pearson, secretary of the National Audubon Society and game commissioner of North Carolina, last night gave an illustrated lecture at the George Washington University on "Bird Protection in the South." Mr. Pearson told of the many difficulties encountered in protecting the game from professional and amateur hunters, and said that in spite of the efforts of the Audubon Society, thousands of birds were slaughtered each year for the Northern markets and for plumage for women's hats.

## LECTURE ON IGORROTES BY COLONEL FOLKMAR

Col. Daniel Folkmar, former governor of the province of Luzon, P. I., spoke on the social institutions of the head hunting Igorrotes, at the regular meeting of the Anthropological Society last night at the Cosmos Club.

Dr. J. E. Nichols also gave a talk, his subject being the numerical proportion of the sexes at birth. He said that the male children outnumbered the females in America.

## LEVI MORTON PROTESTS AGAINST FIRE RULES

Former Vice President Levi P. Morton, owner of the Shoreham Hotel, has protested to the Commissioners against the order of the building inspector and the fire chief, under the new fire-escape law, requiring that hostelry to be equipped with fire escapes. Mr. Morton says the present equipment of the hotel is sufficient to meet the requirements of the law.

## Railroad Bond Security Already Deposited Good But Secretary Cortelyou Is Taking No More. Those Now in Treasury Will Be Gradually Returned Till All Are Gone.

The report published yesterday concerning the Government's proposed policy with reference to railroad bonds as security for public money, has caused a great flurry among Washington representatives of Wall Street interests.

Ever since the news reached New York, Secretary Cortelyou has been besieged for an official statement on the subject. He declined to make any formal announcement at this time, but he clearly indicated that the sentiment of the Administration was against the continued holding of railroad, municipal and State bonds as security. While disclaiming any intention of immediately calling upon depositors to withdraw bonds of this character now in Government hands, which some interests have erroneously conceived to be the proposed policy of the department, he hinted that it would be his purpose gradually to reduce the number of such bonds, and finally to eliminate them altogether.

### Security Good at Present.

Those in a position to know, say that probably by next summer all railroad bonds now held by the Government will have been released.

In his recent order, temporarily revising his predecessor's plans for the redemption of the \$20,000,000 additional circulation issued in October, Secretary Cortelyou informed banks that they could retain the circulation without change of security for public deposits. Those banks desiring to retire the additional circulation will be required to withdraw the State, municipal and railway bonds and substitute Government bonds.

Investigation of the subject reveals the fact that Secretary Cortelyou has not accepted a single railroad, municipal or State bond as security for public deposits since he assumed charge of the department.

### Philippine and Canal Bonds.

New issues of Government bonds, acceptable to the Treasury as security for deposits, will soon be available for substitution for railroad and other outside bonds that are to be withdrawn. In a few weeks \$30,000,000 of new Panama Canal bonds will be offered for sale. There will be, besides, \$1,000,000 of Philippine bonds, but about June, in connection with the extension of Government aid to railroad construction in the island of Cebu.

This character of bonds, Secretary Cortelyou has announced, will always be acceptable.

## Mantell's Othello Simple; Desdemona Is Simpering; Iago of McGinn a Joke

"Othello" was the bill at the National last night, with Robert Mantell in the name part, Francis McGinn as Iago, and Marie Booth Russell, of course, as Desdemona. One cannot help wishing that Mr. Mantell had chosen to give Washington his Iago instead of his Othello, since he could not give it both. For certainly Iago is infinitely the more interesting part; and, moreover, it would have had the virtue of novelty, while the Othello was done during the Mantell engagement here last season, and one knew pretty well what to expect of it.

In presenting his "Othello" Mr. Mantell harks back to the days of "The Corsican Brothers." The characterization is distinctly melodramatic—which, after all, is nothing against it, for, in the final analysis, "Othello" is melodrama, pure and simple. Because it is written in sonorous blank verse we call it a tragedy. Of course, it is a tragedy; most melodrama is; but, none the less, it is melodrama. Mr. Mantell has the physique for the part, but his make-up is awful. One admires the erect, stately figure, and shudders at the face. The gleaming teeth, the rolling whites of the eyes, the thickened lips make the Moor entirely too much the negro. One quite agrees with old Brabantio that there must have been some wizardry at work to explain Desdemona's marriage. Othello is a simple character, and in the main Mr. Mantell plays him simply. There are moments when his passion becomes more violence, when, in his mental excitement, he becomes too much the beast unchained. He is at his best in his more passive moments, when he expresses the tumult of doubt and indecision. For Mr. Mantell is gifted with a deeply expressive voice, than which there is no more important attribute for a Shakespearean actor. In the third and fourth acts his fluctuations between rage and faith are admirably done; in the earlier scenes the tenderness to Desdemona, and in the last scenes the solemnity with which he bids her make her peace with heaven are most impressive, and the horror and remorse of discovering that what he has regarded as an act of divine justice is in reality the foul murder of the woman he adores could scarcely be improved upon.

Francis McGinn's Iago is more or less of a joke. True, it is an actor-proof Iago, but he reads his lines intelligently can altogether fail as Iago, and Mr. McGinn certainly reads his lines intelligently. But there he begins and ends. The Iago of Shakespeare is an artist and epicure in villainy, a bad man, but a good actor, who thoroughly enjoys his own cleverness, and takes sardonic satisfaction in the evil he has wrought. But here he merely simulates. Does not appear. He does not really believe that the Moor has been unduly injured. He is a personification of motives, not of a man. All of which Mr. McGinn is not. He has a good voice and a fine stage presence, but his Iago is absolutely lacking in the period of discovering that what he has regarded as an act of divine justice is in reality the foul murder of the woman he adores could scarcely be improved upon.

Francis Russell's Desdemona is beautiful to look at; but that is about the best that can be said about it. It is full of good looks, but it is not a Desdemona that married Lady Macbeth is even more in evidence and more objectionable. Mrs. Russell is entirely adequate to the demands of Cassio, and Guy Lindsey is fairly satisfactory as Roderigo. The part seems to be intended for what is called a "comic relief" and Mr. Lindsey furnishes it.

John Milne, the noted seismologist, promises that a big earthquake will shake things up soon somewhere on this globe. He predicates his unbelief on this seismograph in any part of the world has recorded a single mark since the terrific tremor that laid Kingston low.

Charles Marvin admits that the seismograph in the Weather Bureau here has not done a thing toward shaking down earthquake movements since the upheaval at Jamaica.

"I must admit it is rather unusual," said he, "but I believe that it is not abnormal. Before the San Francisco shake-up there were a good many heavy

quakes reported from distant places; the Chilean tremors were preceded by earthquakes in other parts of the globe, as was also that of Kingston. For that reason I do not believe a full in earthquakes presages any great upheaval. I hardly think that Prof. Milne has been correctly quoted, in stating that present conditions are abnormal. That the period between shocks is long is to be admitted, but it must be remembered that of late years we have been experiencing more than our usual quota of quakes. We are bound to have earthquakes, but that they will be of unusual severity because of the present quiescent condition of the earth is not based upon fact. They are just as apt to be slight as to be severe, and as likely to happen in the middle of the Pacific ocean as in Berlin. Earthquakes, as a rule, cannot be predicted."

Seemingly, some one tried to kill Otto Fentzlauff, a contractor, and Mrs. Mary Phillips, a good-looking widow, at 10 o'clock at night. A stick of dynamite, probably, was exploded at the west end of the double house 12 Charles street, Montclair, where Fentzlauff and his housekeeper have been living, and which he owns.

At 8 a. m. Mrs. Phillips, carrying a valise, left the house and walked hurriedly toward the nearest trolley line. An hour later Fentzlauff looked up the house and drove away. His wife and children live at 150 Harrison avenue.

Armed with a revolver, and a burning ambition to become a great cowboy, Orator Edwards, a messenger boy, and Walter Kenzigs, were arrested by Detective Mulvan while trying to purchase a horse-drawn carriage at a D street pawn shop. Both were held by police headquarters until their parents had been notified.

BEAUTY'S PHOTO FREE OF CHARGE

In response to many letters of inquiry, The Sunday Times has made arrangements with several of the leading photographers of Washington whereby photographs of prospective participants in The Sunday Times contest for the honor of being declared the most beautiful woman in Washington may have their photographs taken free of charge.

All that is necessary is for the woman whose photo is to be taken, or the person who is to enter the photo in the contest to call at the news room of The Times, tenth floor, Munsey Building, and obtain an order for the photo from the Beauty Editor, Sunday Times.

These orders will be addressed to any one of the following photographers:

Bachrach...1331 F street northwest  
Bell...1321-23 G street northwest  
Boyce...1325 F street northwest  
Buck...1113 F street northwest  
Gilbert...602 11th street northwest  
Harris & Ewing...1311 F street n. w.  
Paine...923 F street northwest  
Parker...1228 F street northwest  
Prince...Pa. ave. and 11th st. n. w.  
Rice...1203 F street northwest  
Towles...1107 F street northwest

## SMITHSONIAN CLOSES FOR RHEES FUNERAL

The funeral of William Jones Rhees, keeper of the archives at the Smithsonian Institution, was held this afternoon at 2:30 from the residence, 2400 Columbia road. All offices of the Smithsonian proper were closed at 2 o'clock in order to allow Mr. Rhees' associates to attend. He had been a member of the institution for more than fifty years.

Mr. Rhees was also affiliated with a number of organizations in the city, among them being the Sons of the American Revolution, the Anthropological Society of Washington, the National Geographic Society, the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Columbia Historical Society, and the District of Columbia Library Association.

## K STREET RESIDENCE CHANGES OWNERSHIP

The large three-story brick residence at 1105 K street northwest, has been sold for the owners, Wardman & Wilson, through the office of Stone & Fairfax, Incorporated, for \$13,500. The purchase will occupy the property as a residence. Its central location upon the broadest, and by many considered the handsomest street in the city, makes it especially desirable as a home for a business man.

## CALF WALKS ON THREE LEGS.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—Harry S. Maltz, of Montreal, is the owner of a three-legged calf, which is able to walk. The calf is hearty and three weeks old.

## "KEEP OLD RATES," INSURANCE LETTER

Local Companies Continue Campaign Against Low Premiums.

The first gun of the fire insurance war has been fired! The Washington companies and their allies, the representatives of the largest out-of-town companies having agencies here, held a meeting on Monday and have been in daily conferences since. They have formed a temporary organization with H. H. Bergman, former president of the board of underwriters, chairman, and Leonard Towers, Jr., secretary, and have drafted a circular letter which has been sent to all the agencies which might be supposed to be in sympathy with their action.

In this, stress was laid upon the action of the advisory committee, which voted eight to one against the reduction of rates, but was overruled by the middle department, while the ruling power in insurance matters in the District. A continuation of the rate which existed before March 15 was urged, and it was suggested that all changes be deferred until an independent organization could be formed.

Line of Action Indefinite. The plans of the local companies and those which are in accord with them are yet in a formative condition and both agents and secretaries were unwilling to talk or be quoted with regard to probable future action. Officials of the companies claim that they will meet the cut wherever offered and will not allow policies to be taken away from them under any circumstances while others say they prefer to stand pat on rates feeling confident that matters will be adjusted satisfactorily in a short time.

Among the statements made is one that a campaign of education is to be carried on by those who favor the new schedule and that by extensive advertising and promulgation of the advantages to be derived therefrom by the public they will secure the support and sympathy of the insured.

Those who are opposed to a reduction claim that the rates in force were entirely fair and that they were based upon an equitable adjustment between the insurer and insured. Last August there was a revision on Mercantile rates to meet improved conditions and at that time it was held that future reductions were not possible.

The letter of the committee is here given:

### Committee's Letter.

Dear Sir: At an informal meeting, held this afternoon, of the various interests engaged in the insurance business in the District of Columbia, representing all the local companies and a few out-of-town companies, it was decided that, as the promulgation of the reduced rates on March 15 was against the vote of the Advisory Committee of the Board of Fire Underwriters, the rates existing prior to that date should be maintained, and you are requested not to make any change in them, pending the formation of an independent organization.

Respectfully,  
H. H. BERGMAN, Chairman,  
LEONARD TOWERS, Jr., Secretary,  
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1907.

## DISLIKE HOUSEKEEPER; DYNAMITE HOUSE

NEW YORK, March 20.—"My only regret is that the explosion did not kill me," said Mrs. Otto Fentzlauff, with emphasis.

Seemingly, some one tried to kill Otto Fentzlauff, a contractor, and Mrs. Mary Phillips, a good-looking widow, at 10 o'clock at night. A stick of dynamite, probably, was exploded at the west end of the double house 12 Charles street, Montclair, where Fentzlauff and his housekeeper have been living, and which he owns.

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## BOY ARMED WITH PISTOL WANTED TO PLAY COWBOY

Armed with a revolver, and a burning ambition to become a great